Compensation for non-exploitation of forests

†234. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many States including Madhya Pradesh have asked for compensation due to non-rexploitation of forest wealth; and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Government allocates funds to various State/UT Governments including Madhya Pradesh under Centrally sponsored schemes according to availability of funds. For any special consideration, the State Government should approach the Twelfth Finance Commission which is appropriate authority for the purpose.

Ecological disaster due to grounding of cargo vessel, River Princess

235. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the cargo vessel "River-Princess" was grounded at Candolim Beach, Goa in 2000; and

(b) the efforts Government have made to remove this to avoid ecological disaster for fishermen and tourists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have taken various actions to avoid ecological disaster due to the grounded cargo vessel which *inter-alia* include issuance of directions for removal of the vessel both under section 5 to the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and section 33A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 followed by filing of cases against the occupier of the vessel for noncompliance of the said directions. Proceedings were also initiated in the Hon'ble Court of the District Magistrate under the Criminal

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Procedure Code against the occupier. The Government of Goa enacted the Goa Tourist Places (Protection and Maintenance) Act, 2001 and Rules thereunder in September, 2001 exclusively to deal with situations arising out of grounding of such vessels as well as other similar emergencies. Since M/s Salgaocar Mining Industries Private Lmited, Goa did not comply with the directions issued by Government of Goa under the said Act, the vessel stands forfeited and now vests with the Government of Goa. Accordingly, Government of Goa had invited tenders to have the grounded vessel refloated and towed away but it could not be materialized. State Government has now appointed consultant to assist it in preparing the tender document afresh for the same.

Inundation of Damanganga Reservoir Project Area

236 SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large areas of forest land have been submerged due to construction of Damanganga Reservoir Project in the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the total areas inundated and the total number of persons displaced; .

(c) whether proper rehabilitation schemes have been drawn up and implemented; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) An area of 128.38 ha. of Reserved Forest land has gone under submergence due to construction of Damanganga Reservoir Project in the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli for which 93 families have been displaced from revenue villages.

(c) and (d) An area of 220.00 ha. of Reserved Forest land has been utilised for the rehabilitation scheme implemented by the Union Territory Administration for rehabilitation of the displaced families.